

## **Starting A Film Series as a means of Quaker Outreach for your Monthly Meeting**

1. Form a committee
2. Decide how frequently you will have films and where you will show them. A projector, speakers and a screen accommodate groups of 10 or greater better than a TV system.
3. Decide what your intent is. There are hundreds of good films available on a myriad of topics. The Old Chatham Monthly Meeting series tries to provide films which inform and inspire people to take action. Our themes reflect current events and traditional Quaker concerns (Prison reform, equality, non-violence, faith in action etc...). We look for films that are hopeful or have a spiritual component.
4. Select the films. Be careful of length. We find that films that are about one hour long work well if you plan to have discussion afterward.
5. Publicize: Make and distribute posters in local businesses (Old Chatham Meeting can help by providing templates to adjust to your program's specifics, which can be printed out on home color printers); prepare press releases for local papers and list serves; create and maintain an e-mail list of people interested in being notified of upcoming films.

### **For the Actual Showing:**

6. Refreshments make people feel welcome and help to create a space where people feel comfortable talking.
7. Set up a table with additional information on the film's subject. Have available information on your Monthly Meeting. Set out posters for the next film in the series that people can distribute. Have a guest list with space for e-mail information.
8. Welcome folks to your Quaker meeting (not "Friends" meeting which is less understood). Introduce the film. Give a little information on why you've chosen it. Let them know that there will be time after the film to discuss it.
9. Following the film ask folks to rearrange their chairs in a circle. Invite them to get some refreshments. Have someone lead a discussion, but mostly let folks talk.
10. Close at the designated time. Don't go over time; let folks be hungry for more rather than talked out. Remember to thank people for coming out. Invite them back and encourage them to let others know about the series.

*The Old Chatham Meeting Outreach, Peace and Justice committee is working on a lending library through which we hope to share the films we have purchased. For more information and updates contact Terry Dix ([tdix@taconic.net](mailto:tdix@taconic.net)).*